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THOUSANDS MEET TO DEMAND ACTION FOR BELGIUM NOW

FIRST OF COUNTRY-WIDE PROTEST GATHERINGS ASKS GOVERNMENT TO ACT AT ONCE

SUPPORT ADMINISTRATION

THREATEN BERNSTORFF WITH RECALL AND GERMANY WILL YIELD, ASSERTS BECK

OUR DUTY PLAIN, SAYS ROOT

Carnegie Hall Throng Cheers Col. Roosevelt's Letter Denouncing Germany's Acts

Three thousand persons, in mass meeting assembled in Carnegie Hall last night, called upon the Government of the United States to protest with "all its force and earnestness" against Germany's forced enslavement of Belgian men, who, against the military fortunes of their own country and over the protests of neutral nations, are being compelled to work within the German Empire.

The meeting was called to act on Cardinal Mercier's recent appeal to the civilized world, and at its conclusion adopted these resolutions:

> WHEREAS, The world has been appalled by the reports from Belgium of the deportation into bondage of thousands of the non-combatant population; and
>
> WHEREAS, These reports are uncontradicted and the depopulation appears to be a deliberate breach of the promises made by the German authorities to induce the Belgians to return to their own country; and
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> WHEREAS, We learn from the highest authority that the reports in the press of the cruelties perpetrated are not overdrawn, but are really understated; and
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> WHEREAS, Although the German authorities say that the deficiency of work in Belgium is due to the laziness and ill-will of the Belgians, it is known that hundreds of thousands of tons of provisions, machinery and supplies of all kinds have been removed to Germany, to say nothing of the millions of dollars taken by way of fines and indemnities from these poor people, who, robbed of all their resources, are now being driven off in hordes under the pretense that they are ungovernable and will not work; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That we American citizens assembled in public meeting at Carnegie Hall, New York, express our abhorrence of these fresh outrages and violations of the laws of war, the law of nations and the instincts of common humanity, deliberately perpetrated by the German Government, and that we extend our sympathy to the unfortunate people thus made the victims of the calculated cruelty of the conquerors of an innocent nation.

RESOLVED, That we request the Government of the United States to protest with all its force and earnestness against these outrages; to emphasize the detestation with which the American people regard these abuses; and to request the German Government, in the name of all neutrals, to cease its policy of expatriation and slavery; and we pledge our utmost support to the Administration in whatever way it may conclude to act.

RESOLVED, That copies of these resolutions be sent to all the representatives of the German Government who can be reached in this country.

HALL PACKED TO CAPACITY

The hall was packed to capacity. There was not a seat left on the stage, in pit, or in boxes or galleries. It was an audience to a person in full sympathy with the purposes of the meeting, which was the forerunner of other protesting gatherings to be held in other cities, great and small, in the United States.

James M. Beck, Elihu Root, the Rev. Dr. William T. Manning, Alton B. Parker, and the Right Rev. Thomas Frank Gailor, Protestant Episcopal Bishop of Tennessee, were the speakers at last night's meeting, and there were read letters from Joseph H. Choate, Colonel Roosevelt, and Archbishop Ireland, denouncing Germany's action. Mr. Roosevelt's letter was a particularly bitter attack. Mr. Root spoke extemporaneously.

All who spoke 'talked from the shoulder'. They called a spade a spade and a club a club. Senator Root declared in impassioned words that if "the civilized world of the twentieth century is willing to stand silent" in the face of what Germany is now doing in Belgium, then the civilization of this century is worse than the savagery that marked the Roman Era.

Mr. Beck, as did Mr. Root, proclaimed that it was the country's duty to take action immediately. Germany, he said, would not, in the present crisis in her history, hesitate five minutes if President Wilson gave Berlin to understand in unmistakable terms that unless the deportations immediately stopped Count Bernstorff would receive his passports.

Mr. Beck paid glowing tributes to the patriotism and unselfish honor of King Albert and Cardinal Mercier, tributes that evoked demonstrations of approval. Such a crown as Albert wears the Kaiser of Germany,

"who stabbed him while professing friendship," said Mr. Beck, "will never wear, even though his iron rule extend from Berlin to Bagdad."

APPLAUSE FOR THE COLONEL

It was when Bishop Gailor said "Sagamore Hill" that the greatest demonstration of the evening came. The Bishop read the letters from Colonel Roosevelt, Mr. Choate, and Archbishop Ireland. The reading of the Roosevelt letter, in which the Colonel declared that "Germany had trampled under foot every device of international law for securing the protection of the weak and the unoffending," was interrupted after every sentence by an outburst of applause. Bishop Gailor, like Colonel Roosevelt, talked in a most positive fashion, and if one closed his eyes he could almost have imagined that it was Mr. Roosevelt himself talking. Colonel Roosevelt characterized Germany's campaign in Belgium as one of "methodically organized atrocities against the unhappy Belgian people."

President Wilson's name was mentioned several times and, though greeted with applause, the tribute was neither so noisy nor so prolonged as was the case when King Albert, Cardinal Mercier, and Colonel Roosevelt were mentioned. One man on the stage, when Dr. Manning referred to Germany's act in sinking the Lusitania, shouted "Shame! Shame!"

Dr. Manning, in presenting Mr. Root, referred to him as a man than whom, because of statesmanship and clear vision, there was none more qualified "to speak in the name of Belgian freedom and American honor."

Senator Root said in part:

GLAD TO JOIN IN PROTEST

"Mr. President, Fellow-Americans: I am glad to join my voice to-night with my fellows in this free land in condemnation and protest upon this new outrage that is visited upon poor and bleeding Belgium. I could not remain silent. I should not respect myself if I remained silent. And I hope, I trust, I pray that my country will not remain silent.

"Explain it as you may, excuse it as you may, disguise it as you may, the people of Belgium by the tens and hundreds of thousands, are being carried away into slavery—a thing that has not been done by any nation that claimed to be civilized in modern history.

"Poor Belgium! Peaceful, industrious, God-fearing, law-abiding Belgium! She had no quarrel with any one; she sought no nation's territory; she coveted no neighbor's goods; she threatened no one's security, but she stood in the way of a mightier nation's purpose. Her stern and noble resolve to keep the faith was her only crime, and she has been punished as if her people were the vilest on earth. Her towns have been burned, her noble and stately monuments have been leveled to the earth; her women and children and old men have been murdered; her country has been brought under the sway of a foreign invader, and now she has been bled white by vast exactions of money and of produce. Every effort for her to revive her industries has been denied; and now, because she has suffered thus, her men are to be carried away to forced labor as slaves.

"If the civilized world of the twentieth century is willing to stand silent and see these things done, in cumulative progression, in violation of the laws of humanity and of nations, then the civilization of the twentieth century is worse than the savagery of the Romans.

"It seems that there is no place for the independence of small, weak States, for security in self-government by peaceable and unarmed peoples, or individual freedom, or for private right, in that scheme of things under which liberty for national evolution is to justify all uses of power. But, what we have to do is not merely to gratify our own feelings by expressing them regarding this treatment of the Belgians. What we have to do is not merely to protest in the name of humanity, it is to assert a right, it is to call upon the world to assert a right, a right under the law of nations for the protection of humanity and of civilization. This is our concern.

"This deportation of the Belgians to involuntary servitude is a violation of our law, of the law we helped to make, of the law which in common with all civilized nations we have built up generation after generation, and it has been embodied in definite and certain and solemn instruments of agreement, as to what humanity demands signed by Belgium, signed by Germany, and binding to-day. Let me read to you. I see that General von Bissing justifies the deportation of Belgian workmen and refers to The Hague Convention as to the basis for his action, quoting the provision that it is the duty of a belligerent power, in possession of conquered territory, to preserve order. The deportation, he says, was to preserve order in Belgium. Let me read the whole of the provision to which he refers.

> The authority of the legitimate power having actually passed into the hands of the occupant, the latter shall take all steps in his power to re-establish and insure, as far as possible, public order and safety, while respecting, unless absolutely prevented, the laws in force in the country.

"The most solemn of the laws of Belgium, protecting the rights of her people, were violated in contravention of that very provision by the man who appeals to it for his justification.

"What I read was from Article 43 of the 1899 convention. The convention proceeds:

> Family honors and rights, individual lives, and private property, as well as religious convictions and liberty, must be respected.

"The convention further proceeds: 'Until a more complete code of the laws of war is issued, the high contracting parties have the right to declare that, in cases not included in the regulations adopted by them, populations and belligerents remain under the protection and empire of the principles of international law as they result from the usages established between civilized nations, the laws of humanity, and the requirements of public conscience.'

"That convention was signed and ratified by every power that is now engaged in the European war as well as by ourselves. There was a subsequent convention that was signed by nearly all, which contained a provision that, as to those that did not sign, the convention from which I read continued in force. The subsequent convention contained precisely the identical provisions, so that Germany is bound in conscience and in law by the existing treaty between her and us, between her and Belgium, declaring what the principles of humanity require in the treatment of occupied territory. Those principles of humanity have been violated in accordance with the very statement of them upon which she and we have agreed.

"Now I say this law is our law; it is our protection. The rights of man, peace, and humanity cannot be preserved upon influence alone. Law governing men in the treatment of the weak and defenseless is necessary; and so for years, for centuries, the nations have been building up a code of law, international law, and that law is the protection—the enforcement of that law, respect for that law, obedience to that law, are the protection of our peaceable people, of all weak and small nations, of all those that do not wish to be armed to the teeth every moment for their own protection.

"We have a right to have it observed, and it is our duty to our children and to our country that we shall not remain silent in the face of open, flagrant, contemptuous disregard and violation of it.

"How can it be preserved? Not merely by armies and navies. No. There is but one power on earth that can preserve the law for the protection of the poor, the weak, and the humble; there is but one power on earth that can preserve the law for the maintenance of civilization and humanity, and that is the power, the mighty power, of the public opinion of mankind.

"Without it, your leagues to enforce peace, your societies for a world's court, your peace conventions, your peace endowments, are all powerless, because no force moves in this world unless it ultimately has a public opinion behind it.

"The thing that men fear more than they do the sheriff or the policeman or the State prison is the condemnation of the community in which they live.

"The thing that among nations is the most potent force is the universal condemnation of mankind. And even during this terrible struggle we have seen the nations appealing from day to day, appealing by speech and by pen and by press for favorable judgment from mankind, the public opinion of the world. That establishes standards of conduct. In Roman times the standard of conduct permitted the carrying off of slaves to the mines; permitted the impaling of prisoners; permitted the sacking of towns.

"At the time of the Thirty Years' War, outrages almost as bad as those which have been perpetrated in Belgium were accorded with the practice and acquiescence of the world, but we thought that we had been building up new standards of conduct; that the world had grown more compassionate

and more kindly, and it has. The public opinion of the world was establishing, had established, a more humane and Christian standard of conduct, both in peace and in war. That standard is beaten down, it is destroyed, it is set at naught. And if we remain silent, if the great neutral peoples of the world remain silent, the standard is gone forever.

"And, mark this, the new standard, or rather the return to the old standard, of barbarism will not stop with the poor people of Belgium. It will be here. Not perhaps for you and me, but for our children it will be here.

"How can we maintain the standard of civilization? Not by silence regarding wrong. If the world of well meaning and kindly and good people remain silent when hideous wrong is done, what difference is there to the wrong-doer between right and wrong? In order that the public opinion of the world should be worth anything, it must condemn wrong."

UNITED STATED SHOWED LEAD

Declaring that all should speak out in condemnation of the "horrid crimes" of Germany against Belgium, Mr. Root was emphatic in his avowal that this country should take the lead.

"America cannot choose at will," he said. "We have assumed our attitude, taken our responsibility. We have declared ourselves the champions of liberty. Remember the words of Lincoln. 'Fourscore and seven years ago our fathers brought forth on this continent a new nation conceived in liberty and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal.'

"One cannot be an American with the history of America without responsibility to the spirit of American freedom. We are grown rich beyond the dreams of avarice. Intellect has been trained. Education is cast over the land. Peace has been preserved.

"Are we so sunk in comfort, in luxury, in self-satisfaction, that we have lost the old spirit of American freedom?"

A ringing shout of "No, No, No!" interrupted the speaker.

"If we have not," he went on, "then we cannot remain silent over this wrong to Belgium."

GERMAN PEOPLE MISLED

In opening the meeting Dr. Manning said that it had been called for the purpose of expressing "openly and publicly the indignation and abhorrence which we felt, as American citizens, against deeds committed in Belgium, France, and Poland," by the Germans, deeds which were "supposed to have become extinct among civilized peoples."

"That martyred nation," said Dr. Manning, "which, more than any other, has sacrificed itself for the sake of law and right and honor, is appealing in its dire distress to all the world, and to the Central Nations in particular. This meeting is in answer to that appeal. We wish to express our unmeasured sympathy with the wronged people of Belgium."

Dr. Manning emphasized that the meeting had not been arranged for the expression of words of hate, nor was it intended to condemn indiscriminately all Germans. The German people, he said, had been misinformed, misled, and "cruelly betrayed, by those in whom they have trusted."

"We believe there are many Germans," Dr. Manning continued, "who condemn these infamous deeds as strongly as we do. We hope yet to see them free themselves from the power of autocratic and unscrupulous leaders who have robbed Germany of her high place among the nations, and carried her into crimes which have shocked and amazed the world. But we are here to say that as American citizens, and as true men and women, we denounce and utterly condemn such acts as the invasion of Belgium, the sinking of the Lusitania, and now, the climax of atrocity, the taking into slavery of defenseless and unoffending civilians."

GERMANY'S PLEA IS AN INSULT

Germany's plea in justification that the Belgians were exiled into Germany as a humanitarian measure, the object of which was to provide work for the unemployed, Dr. Manning characterized as "an insult to our intelligence and a mockery of those who are being tortured and oppressed." Germany's action against the Belgians he described as "slavery plus treason to their own kindred, their own honor, and their own land."

"They, the Belgians," he continued, "are compelled to give their aid toward the destruction of their own people. God save us and the world from such humanitarian measures as these.

"We have been slow to believe that such things could be in this age. We were affected in the beginning by no prejudice against Germany, but quite the reverse. But we have been compelled to see that everything that we hold dear is involved in this conflict. We have been compelled to see that the real issues at stake are democracy, civilization, and every truth for which Christianity stands. A world dominated by those ideas for which Germany has stood during this war would not be a fit place to live in. It would be a world of brute force, of broken obligations, of ruthless aggression, of might utterly disregarding right.

"I point you to one who has shown us what good it will do, who has shown us the power of moral witness, at the risk of his life has lifted up a voice that has been heard in every land, the great Cardinal Mercier, whose name is an honor to Belgium, an honor to the Roman Catholic Church, an honor to Christianity throughout the world, and an honor to mankind.

NOW IS THE TIME TO SPEAK OUT

"We are asked to speak out for the sake of Belgium. I say that it is time for us to speak out for the sake of our own honor, our own land, and our own souls.

"Our President has said recently, in words which we all indorse: 'So far as America is concerned and her influence is involved, justice and liberty

should be extended to mankind everywhere.' Let us act in accordance with these words. Now is the time, if ever, for us to use our influence for justice and liberty."

Dr. Manning said President Wilson's message to Berlin, in which he protested against the deportation of the Belgians, appeared to have had no effect, and that day by day, "these merciless outrages upon men and women" continued.

"We call upon our Government," he concluded, "to take a position in this matter which will give to America her greatest and most priceless privilege, the privilege of moral leadership among the nations.

"We pledge to the President the unqualified support of all right-thinking people of every party, creed, and name, if he will now demand in the name of America, in the name of humanity, and in the name of God that these unheard of crimes against the brave people of Belgium shall immediately cease, and that those who have already been carried into slavery shall be set free and allowed at least the poor comfort of returning to their broken families and their devastated homes."

Dr. Manning, before introducing Mr. Beck as the next speaker, read the letters from Colonel Roosevelt and Mr. Choate.

COLONEL ROOSEVELT'S VIEWS

Colonel Roosevelt's letter, which was addressed to Frederick W. Whitridge, as an organizer of the meeting, was as follows:

Sagamore Hill, Dec. 5, 1916.

Dear Mr. Whitridge:

I earnestly wish you all success in your meeting; and all Americans who are proud of the good name of their country and also have in them the capacity for general indignation on behalf of a foully wronged people, must join in hearty thanks to you and your associates.

Germany's campaign of methodically organized atrocities against the unhappy Belgian people has culminated in the transplanting of over a hundred thousand Belgian men into a condition of State slavery in Germany, where their labor is to be used to aid in the conquest of their fellow countrymen. Similar transplantings of civilian non-combatants, both men and women, into slavery in Germany have already occurred in Northern France.

This action is paralleled by the action of the Assyrian conquerors of Syria and Palestine; but until the present war broke out it was supposed that such hideous infamies were effectively checked by the system of international law which has grown up under modern Christian civilization. But Germany has trampled under foot every device of international law for securing the protection of the weak and the

unoffending. She has shown an utter disregard of all considerations of pity, mercy, humanity, and international morality. She has counted upon the terror inspired by her ruthless brutality to protect her from retaliation or interference.

The outrages committed on our own people have been such as the United States has never before been forced to endure, and have included the repeated killing of our men, women, and children. The sinking of the Marina and the Chemung the other day, with the attendant murder of six Americans, was but the most recent in an unbroken chain of injuries and insults, which by comparison make mere wrong to our property interests sink into absolute insignificance.

As long as neutrals keep silent, or speak apologetically, or take refuge in the futilities of the professional pacifists, there will be no cessation in these brutalities. But surely this last and crowning brutality, which amounts to the imposition of a cruel form of State slavery on a helpless and unoffending conquered nation, must make our people realize that they peril their own souls, that they degrade their own manhood, if they do not bear emphatic testimony against the perpetration of such iniquity.

I am glad to be one among the Americans who thus bear testimony.

Yours very truly,

THEODORE ROOSEVELT

CHOATE DISAGREES WITH LANSING

Mr. Choate's letter in part said:

"The Secretary of State says that the United States Government has exhausted its means of diplomacy, and therefore lays the case before American public opinion, from which it will expect to draw guidance for the next steps, if any be taken. I do not agree to that view, although I accept it for the time being in deference to the high authority of the President. I do not believe that we are bound to continue diplomatic relations with a nation that shall persist in such brutal outrages, against the universal protest of the neutral world.

"Chancellor von Bethmann Hollweg told Secretary Grew that the deportations are regarded as justified 'on the grounds of social necessity.' But the same Chancellor declared to the world on Aug. 4, 1914, that the invasion of Belgium was justified on the same plea of necessity, although he admitted that it was all wrong and was in violation of international law and would be fully paid for, as it will be by and by.

"I have just read that the Vice-chancellor of Germany said the other day that these deportations were in entire accordance with international

law, and were authorized by the Convention with Respect to the Laws and Customs of War on Land, adopted by the first Hague Conference of 1899, which was adopted by all the belligerent nations, and particularly by the Forty-third Article of the Convention. But this is a still more frivolous and unfounded plea, which, I am not surprised to see, the Chancellor himself in his conversation with Secretary Grew took no notice of and did not adopt.

"But the Vice-chancellor has forgotten the whole spirit of the Conference of 1899, which declares in its preamble that 'animated by the desire to serve the interests of humanity and the ever increasing requirements of civilization', and 'thinking it important, with this object, to revise the laws and general customs of war, either with the view of defining them more precisely, or of laying down certain limits for the purpose of moderating their severity as far as possible', the Conference 'has in this spirit adopted a great number of provisions, the object of which is to define and govern the usages of war on land'. The Conference, however, recognized that 'it has not heen possible to agree forthwith on provisions embracing all the circumstances which occur in practice', and declares that 'cases not provided for should not, for want of a written provision, be left to the arbitrary judgment of the military commanders'. And it declares further that 'in cases not included in the regulations adopted by it, populations and belligerents remain under the protection and empire of the principles of international law, as they result from the usages established between civilized nations, from the laws of humanity, and the requirements of the public conscience'.

"Now, certainly, neither international law, nor the usages of civilized nations, nor the laws of humanity, nor the requirements of the public conscience justify these horrible proceedings, and Germany by its ratification of the Final Act of the Conference of 1899 bound itself in the conduct of war on land to be governed by these lofty and noble standards."

The message from Archbishop Ireland said in part:

"Those to whom the protest is addressed will not, I believe, turn a deaf ear to your entreaties, and will, on calmer thought, desist from the dreadful rigors into which, for the moment, war passion has led them. The peace-abiding, civilized population of the country has an inviolable right to live on their own soil. Forced labor on that of their foes finds nowhere justification. Cardinal Mercier tells the details of Belgian deportation. The truth of his statements cannot be doubted. The facts as told by him challenge contradiction. They affright the hearer. No explanation, no excuse, diminishes the awful cruelty implied in them. For its own sake, for the sake of the honorable record it covets in the history of the nations, Germany will, as we hope, quickly reverse its present position and leave Belgians to live and suffer on their own Belgian soil."

BECK CALLS IT AN INFAMY

Mr. Beck began by describing the meeting as a "protest in the sacred cause of justice and humanity against the most damnable infamy of modern

times," and added that whatever might be the differences of opinion regarding other questions, those present were "a unit in pledging to our Government our support in any attempt which it may make to end the slow murder of a great, noble, and innocent people."

"We protest against what is being done," said Mr. Beck, "as citizens of the United States, because our country has always been in the past a noble interpreter of the best ideals of humanity and a steadfast champion of the weak and the oppressed.

"We protest as citizens of the larger commonwealth of civilization, whose system of international law, the inestimable heritage of the ages, has been mocked and nullified by the cruel war waged by the Prussian conquerors of Belgium against the non-combatants of that stricken land.

"We protest as children of a common God against the wicked and wanton wrongs that the ruthless invader has inflicted upon our brethren, the brave people of Belgium.

"If the people of the United States did not thus protest, the very 'stones of the streets would cry out against us.'

"In so doing we are not playing the rôle of officious intermeddlers in a quarrel that is not our own. These violations of international law offend humanity, affront civilization and vitally concern the whole human family. They constitute a flagrant negation of all that civilization has accomplished in mitigating the horrors of war.

BELGIUM MUST BE RESTORED

"If I do not misinterpret the sentiment of the American people, then it believes that any peace that would leave the rights of Belgium without vindication, and their wrongs without reparation, would be infinitely more mischievous than a continuation of the war. 'Reparation', do I say? Can the dead be restored to life? Can happiness ever be restored to those who have been plunged into unending misery? Can historic temples be restored, or the priceless treasures of antiquity be returned? Vengeance there may be, reparation there can never be. Before peace shall come Belgium, innocent and shamefully oppressed, must not only be restored, but its just cause vindicated if the reign of law is ever to be restored to a distracted civilization."

He went on to say that if he were asked to name the three most courageous men in this world crisis he would name without hesitation Karl Liebnicht, the German Socialist; King Albert, and Cardinal Mercier.

"Germany," he continued, "promised bread; she gave a stone. In an incredibly short time she cut off Belgium from the world and ruined her by the wholesale spoliation of her resources.

"Germany then invited not only her enemies, but the neutral world, and especially the United States, to come to the relief of a people whom she had reduced to destitution. While recognizing that every dollar contributed for this purpose was an indirect contribution to German resources in relieving her of a manifest obligation, yet France and England, con-

strained by gratitude and pity, contributed more than $200,000,000 to relieve the impoverished population. The United States, by private contributions contributed approximately $10,000,000 and no one in this country, who gave to this cause from the penny of the child to the larger gifts of the well-to-do, ever questioned that Germany would either directly or indirectly deprive the Belgian people of these voluntary gifts.

GERMANY PERPETRATED A FRAUD

"Instead of respecting this sacred obligation, Germany perpetrated a wicked and stupendous fraud upon the entire world. While the rest of the world, belligerents and neutrals, were sending a stream of gifts for the relief of the Belgian people, Germany, in violation of every principle of international law and every dictate of humanity was stripping the Belgian people of its resources. It did not take the food, clothing, and money contributed by the charity of the world, but it did take by force and fraud the possessions of the Belgian people, and the very means by which they lived and worked. No crime could be more ignoble than this action of Germany. The charity of the world has kept the Belgium people alive, but it has not saved them from destitution. Universal poverty is now their portion, for of a population of 7,000,000, 3,000,000 daily wait in the bread line for sufficient food to keep alive.

Taking up the subject of the deportation of civilians into Germany from conquered territories, Mr. Beck said:

"At the beginning of the present year, when the work of spoliation and terrorism had been completed, and peace of the Warsaw variety reigned in Belgium, it was thought that Prussia's cup of infamy was full to the very brim and that nothing could it to damnation add greater than that. The system of enforced slavery began under peculiarly malignant circumstances last Easter, when hundreds of women and young girls in Belgium and Northern France were ruthlessly and suddenly torn from their homes and shipped to detention camps, where they were obliged to work in the harvest fields under Prussian bayonets.

"As a distinguished American, who actually beheld in the occupied territory some of the details of this new form of white slavery, told me, a husband would leave his home to earn bread for his wife and children, and on returning in the evening he would find that his wife and daughters had been taken in his absence and transported to some unknown destination and equally unknown fate. It is said, and it is probably true, that the victims of this slave raid last Easter were returned to their homes after the harvest had been gathered; but it further aggravates the blackness of the offense against chivalry and justice that even the product of this enforced toil, as my informant told me, did not at first go to the relief of the Belgian people themselves, but was transported to Germany. The brave protest of our American Commission—and lasting honor shall be the portion of that heroic American, Herbert Hoover—finally succeeded in regaining

for the work of the commission a part of the harvest which the women slaves of Belgium had reaped by their enforced labors.

DUTY OF THE UNITED STATES PLAIN

"The question is not what Germany is doing, but what the rest of the world proposes to do, and, above all, what the United States, as the greatest of the neutral powers, proposes to do.

"We went to war against Spain for an offense which, by comparison, was trivial, namely, the gathering of the non-combatants of Cuba in the concentration camps to facilitate the operations of the Spanish Army in putting down the Cuban rebellion. Our great civil war was fought to abolish slavery, and we did not regard the 400,000 lives which perished in this titanic conflict as wasted to bring about that result.

"If America has any mission, it is to defend liberty against tyranny. Our nation has protested against the violation of international law involved in the killing of women and children and other non-combatants upon the high seas. Shall it or can it be deaf to the infinitely greater evil of the virtual enslavement of a whole people?

"It is in the power of the United States, without recourse to arms, to bring this system of oppression to an end. All that is necessary is for the President of the United States to instruct our representative in Berlin to notify the German Government that, unless it gives a prompt assurance that the forcible deportation of Belgians to Germany shall immediately cease, the German Ambassador will be given his passports. Germany can not, dare not, quarrel with this country in this crisis of its fortunes. It believes in its inner councils that it will need this country to save it from the wrath to come. Let us hope that the people of America will by their outspoken indignation, here and elsewhere, give to the President of the United States the fullest assurance—if, indeed, any assurance is necessary—that if he will act and act speedily to defend the Belgian people from further wrong, he will have the support of the American people, without respect to parties, creeds, or classes."

Judge Parker, in the course of his speech, said:

"We do not hope to stop this war, but unless we protest with both passion and effect against its abuses, its disregard of law and of the humanities, it will be impossible to prevent the next one or hinder it from degenerating into a barbarity which will throw mankind back into the period of Carthage.

"We do therefore enter our protest against this enormity, this new slavery, not alone because it is abhorrent to us, but also to the end that all may know that we are in earnest sympathy with the position taken by our Government in respect to this matter.

"We have joined the whole world in abolishing the slavery of men because they were black, and we now join the whole world in protest against the return to this condition of white men, long after it has been abandoned for all men."

The Vice-Presidents of the last meeting were:

Lyman Abbott
F. H. Allen
E. L. Baylies
Robert Bacon
Otto Bannaro
James M. Beck
S. R. Bertron
C. N. Bliss
John M. Bowers
Robert Brioges
Bishop Burch
N. M. Butler
W. A. Butler
B. T. Cable
R. W. Chambers
Joseph A. Choate
F. R. Coudert
Paul D. Cravath
R. Fulton Cutting
H. P. Davison
R. W. De Forest
Chauncey M. Depew
Coleman Dupont
Allen W. Evarts
C. S. Fairchild
S. W. Fairchild
W. C. Forbes
H. C. Frick
Bishop Greer
D. Guggenheim
W. D. Guthrie
G. G. Haven
A. J. Henquill
A. B. Hepburn
Dr. J. G. Hibben
Henry Holt
Charles E. Hughes
Adrian Iselin
A. D. Juillard
D. P. Kingsley
Luther Kountze
E. H. Lacombe
Rev. Dr. W. Laidlaw
Ivy L. Lee
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